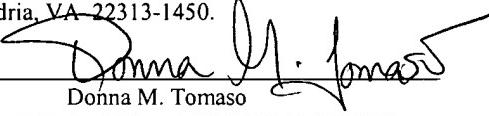


**NEW UNITED STATES UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION**  
**under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)**

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Atty. Docket No. 005127.00249

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10: The undersigned hereby certifies that this United States Patent Application and all papers noted herein as being attached, are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 today, **November 5, 2003**, and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By   
Donna M. Tomaso

**Express Mail Label No.: EV 396912203 US**

22154 U.S.PTO  
10/702223



Commissioner for Patents  
Mail Stop Patent Application  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Enclosed herewith is a new patent application and the following papers:

Inventors (or application identifier): **Michael Collier, Frank T. Brown and Thomas G. Bell**

Title of Invention: **COMPRESSION SYSTEM FOR BACKPACK**

1.  Specification 26 pages (including specification, claims, abstract) / 35 claims (3 independent)
2.  Declaration/Power of Attorney is:
  - attached in the regular manner.
  - NOT included, but deferred under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f).
3.  This Application has 10 distinct sheets of  Formal  Informal Drawings
4.  Preliminary Amendment.
5.  Information Disclosure Statement
  - Form 1449
  - A copy of each cited prior art reference
6.  Assignments (2) with Cover Sheets.
7.  Priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon the following application(s) (provisional and foreign applications):

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Country	Application Number	Date of Filing (day, month, year)

8.  Priority document(s).
9.  Small Entity Status is being hereby claimed.
10.  Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission.
  - Computer Readable Copy.
  - Paper Copy (identical to computer copy).
  - Statement verifying identity of above copies.
11. Calculation of Fees:

FEES FOR	EXCESS CLAIMS	FEE	AMOUNT DUE
Basic Filing Fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(a))			\$770.00
Total Claims in Excess of 20 (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(c))	15	18.00	\$270.00
Independent Claims in Excess of 3 (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b))	0	86.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(d))	0	290.00	\$0.00
Subtotal - Filing Fee Due			\$1,040.00
		MULTIPLY BY	
Reduction by 50%, if Small Entity (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9, 1.27, 1.28)	0.50		\$0.00
<b>TOTAL FILING FEE DUE</b>			<b>\$1,040.00</b>
Assignment Recordation Fees (if applicable) (37 C.F.R. § 1.21(h))	X2	40.00	\$0.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL DUE</b>			<b>\$1,040.00</b>

12. PAYMENT is:
- The Commissioner is authorized to debit the instant filing fee, in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, and any other fees during the pendency of this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16, 1.17 and 1.18, to Deposit Account No. 19-0733. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.
- not included, but deferred under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(f)

**NEW UNITED STATES UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION**  
**under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)**

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13. All correspondence for the attached application should be directed to:

Gregory J. Cohan  
Customer Number 22910  
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.  
28 State Street, 28th Floor  
Boston, MA 02109  
Telephone: (617) 720-9600  
Facsimile: (617) 720-9601

14. Other: Application Data Sheet (4 pages) and Return Postcard.

Date: November 5, 2003

By: Gregory J. Cohan  
Gregory J. Cohan  
Reg. No. 40,959

GJC/dmt  
Enclosures